(c) the names of persons or companies or mills that have applied for permits and those that have been sanctioned?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*:

(a) Thirty-eight applications till the end of Kumbham 1120.

(b) Thirteen.

(c) A list containing the required information is appended. *(See Appendix I)*

DUTY ON TAPIOCA PRODUCTS

403. Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: Will Government be pleased to state why a duty of 4 annas on every lb. has been placed on tapioca flour or sago or flakes?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: No duty is at present imposed on tapioca flour. But it is proposed to impose a small duty of one anna on it. A duty of 4 annas per lb. was imposed on tapioca sago and flakes. This has now been reduced to 2 annas a pound. Tapioca being a cheap and popular food among the poorer classes, unrestricted manufacture of its products cannot be allowed. The duty is levied with a view to check and control indiscriminate manufacture of these products.

CHOONDAL AND ERANELLORE VILLAGES—COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE GRAIN PURCHASING PARVATHIAM

404. Mr. K. R. Achuthan *(Ezhuvas-Trichur)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether the Director of Food Supplies has received a petition dated. 9th Kumbham 1120 and signed by certain agriculturists of Choondal and Eranellur Villages in Talappalli Taluk containing the following allegations and requests, among others;

i. that the Grain Purchasing Parvathiam of the aforesaid group of villages is a rich and influential man of the locality and that he has been continuously oppressing the villagers concerned in matters relating to paddy purchase;

ii. that hoping that the Tahsildar of the Talappalli Taluk during his visit to the Choondal Village Office on 7th Kumbham 1120, corresponding to 18th February 1945, would make an enquiry into the complaints about the Parvathiam, many of the complainants were present in the Village Office on that occasion;

iii. that the Tahsildar did not make any serious enquiry into the matter and did not take down the statement of the complainants;

iv. that the Parvathiam concerned, after taking receipts for the amounts in full from the owners of paddy, puts off paying them under one pretext or another and that even when he pays the price of paddy the payments are made in instalments and very often small balances are left unpaid;

v. that the Parvathiam is not in the habit of being present at the places where paddy is measured, and that the parties after taking slips from the mill agents, have to go to the Parvathiam's house, and that the Parvathiam is seldom present in the Village Office.

vi. that the first two signatories to the petition, who are not in the good books of the Parvathiam, were not allowed to retain even the seed required for sowing during the next cultivation season;

vii. that the officer concerned is receiving bribes from cultivators;

viii. that he is compelling poor cultivators to lend their cattle to him free for ploughing purposes;

ix. that large amounts from the funds at his disposal are utilised by the officer to accommodate certain persons who are his favourites in the form of advances, and that this fact will be clear if the receipts and counterfoils used paddy purchase are examined;

x. that if an effective enquiry is to be made into the matter it should be made after transferring the Paravthiam from the group of villages in which he is working now;

(b) whether Government have made any enquiry into the allegations contained in the petition and if so, with what results?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*:

(a) Yes.

(b) Enquiry by the Tahsildar is over. The Special Staff under the Chief Inspecting Officer also enquired into the allegations. It is proposed to conduct further enquiries in the matter.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly